

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2711

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005

LEASING FOREST LAND TO PRIVATE OWNERS

Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Satheedevi Smt. P.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that certain State Governments have decided to give the forest land to private parties under lease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise ;
- (c) whether the Union Government is aware that lakhs of hectares of forest land is possessed by private parties which has expired the lease period; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to take over such forest land from private possession?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRINAMONARAINMEENA)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received information about allotment of forest land under lease to private people by the State Government of Kerala in Cardamom Hill Reserve. Cardamom Hill Reserve is Reserved Forest under the administrative control and ownership of Revenue Department. The Revenue Department has allegedly granted lease to some persons in that area in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. An Application has been filed by a voluntary organization namely One Earth -One Life, before the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India, and the matter, at present is subjudice.